

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISTANB 01076 301053Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05 CU-02 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01

/075 W

-----310257Z 048985 /73

R 300915Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 1076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ISTANBUL

REF: A) ISTANBUL 0746; B) ANKARA 2140

SUMMARY: TEMPO OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND STUDENT VIOLENCE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING PAST TEN DAYS; ATTRIBUTABLE AT LEAST IN PART TO RHETORIC OF EARLY ELECTION PROPOSALS AND COMMEMORATION OF CELEBRATED LEFTIST'S DEATH. MOST OBSERVERS HERE, INCLUDING SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS, ANTICIPATE THAT INCIDENTS OF POLITIALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE WILL ESCALATE AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR BOMBS, APPARENTLY PLACED BY LEFTIST TERRORISTS, DAMAGED BUILDINGS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY MARCH 27. CONTINUING PATTERN SET BY FEBRUARY 22 EXPLOSION AT HOME OF FORMER PRESIDENT BAYER (REF A) TWO BOMBS TARGETED PRIATE HOMES OF PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS. TWO OF ISTANBUL'S LEADING BUSINESSMEN, FEYYAZ BERKER AND HALIT NARIN, WERE SINGLED OUT THIS TIME. BERKER IS PRESIDENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISTANB 01076 301053Z

OF TURKISH BUSINESSMEN'S AND INDUSTRIAILISTS ASSOCIATION (TUSIAD) AND NARIN IS PRESIDENT OF BOTH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AND TURKISH FREE ENTERPRIZE COUNCIL. FORMER IS ONE OF LEADING PARTICIPANTS IN GROUP OF TURKISH BUSINESSMEN PLANNING TOVISIT WASHINGTON APRIL 24 REF B). A BOMB ALSO WENT OFF IN FRONT OF MAIN OFFICE OF SABANCI HOLDING, ONE OF TWO LARGEST BUSINESS CONGLOMERATES IN TURKEY. FOURTH BOMB SHATTERED WINDOWS OF A SUB-PROVINCIAL

JUSTICE PARTY HEADQUARTERS.

2. IN ADDITION TO TERRORIST BOMBINGS, STUDENT VIOLENCE CENTERING ON ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU) CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE ADDED TENSION TO POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM ITU HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE AS RESULT OF VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS CLASHES BETWEEN LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST FACTIONS WHICH INTENSIFIED AFTER TWO STUDENTS KILLED MARCH 11. "JANDARMA" (QUASI-MILITARY FORCES) HAVE AT TIMES BEEN DEPLOYED IN HALLS OF ITU AND TRUCKLOADS OF THESE TROOPS HAVE BEEN STATIONED OUTSIDE. LATEST INCIDENTS AT ITU (MARCH 28) RESULTED IN WOUNDING OF SEVERAL STUDENTS,

3. PERHAPS RELATED TO CAMPUS VIOLENCE, EVENING OF MARCH 28, TWO MORE SMALL BOMBS REPORTEDLY EXPLODED IN ISTANBUL, ONE IN VICINITY OF ITU AND THE OTHER NEAR ANOTHER COLLEGE CAMPUS WHERE STUDENTS HAD CLASHED THAT SAME DAY. TARGETS WERE AN AKBANK BRANCH (OWNED BY SABANCI HOLDING) AND PHILLIPS COMPANY OFFICES. (PHILLIPS IS ONE OF LAST AND LARGEST WHOLLY FOREIGN-OWNED INVESTMENTS IN TURKEY AND WAS TARGET OF PREVIOUS BOMBING IN NOVEMBER.) MARCH 27 AND 28 BOMBINGS MAY ALSO BE CONNECTED WITH MARCH 30 ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY TERRORIST MAHIR CAYAN WHICH HAS IN PAST YEARS BEEN OCCASION FOR SERIES OF BOMBING INCIDENTS.

4. ACCOMPANIED BY CAMPUS VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY, GENERAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IS HEATING UP IN ISTANBUL WITH EARLY ELECTIONS IN PROSPECT. AS HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME, LAST WEEK, GROUP OF JUSTICE PARTY (JP) YOUTH PROTESTED ANTI-JP REPORTING OF CUMHURİYET, A LEFTIST NEWSPAPER, WHICH GENERALLY SUPPORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISTANB 01076 301053Z

OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP). DURING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THAT DAILY'S BUILDING, ITS PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR WAS ROUGHED UP. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD CAUSE NEW TENSION BETWEEN LOCAL SUPPORTERS OF TWO MAJOR PARTIES CONTESTING UPCOMING ELECTION, JP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN INFORMED CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER THAT LOCAL JP PLANS TO PROTEST IN COURT AGAINST RPP "IRREGULARITIES" IN VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS RECENTLY COMPLETED.

COMMENT: GATHERING TENSION CONFIRMS SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS AND OTHER INFORMED SOURCES PREDICTION THAT AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE WILL MULTIPLY GREATLY (THERE HAVE BEEN ALMOST DAILY OCCURRENCES IN RECENT MONTHS). WHETHER ELECTION IS FINALLY HELD IN JUN OR OCTOBER, CLEARLY CAMPAIGN HAS ALREADY BEGUN. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER RECENT BOMBINGS OF BERKER AND NARIN RESIDENCES. BERKER INFORMED US THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY BARELY ESCAPED INJURY WHEN HE FLED ROOM NEXT TO GLASS-ENCLOSED WINTER GARDEN INTO WHICH SMOKING BOMB WAS HURLED. BUSINESSMEN OBVIOUSLY

WORRIED THAT THIS MAY BE BEGINNING OF TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST
THEM, RECALLING PAINFUL MEMORIES OF 1969-72 WHEN THEY WERE TARGETS
OF TERRORIST ATTACKS AND KIDNAPPINGS.

OGDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, BOMBING, POLITICAL SITUATION, TERRORISTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISTANB01076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED FROM GS
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770109-0912
Format: TEL
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977038/aaaaaget.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f86d5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISTANBUL 746, 77 ANKARA 2140
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3167199
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ISTANBUL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f86d5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009